Scott. H.-27—100,000—21-8-48.

M.C.F.H. (1945-46) Department.

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G.O. No. 662

Dated 3rd March 1948

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PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD - Meeting held on 21st November 1947 - Papers - Recorded.

Education & P.H. Deptt.

Proceedings of the Meeting of the Public Health Board held on Friday, the 21st November 1947 at 11 A.M. in the room of the Hon'ble Minister for Public Health, Fort St. George, Madras.

PRESENT.

1. The Hon'ble Sri A.B. Shetty, Minister for Public Health (Chairman)
2. K.M. Unnithan Esq., I.C.S., Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards
3. Sri S. Ramachandra, Sanitary Engineer to Government
4. Rao Bahadur Dr. K.M. Mathew, Director of Public Health (Secretary)
5. Dr. S. Subramaniam, M.B.B.S., M.L.A.
6. Mr. L.C. Pais, B.A.B.L., M.L.A.

C.U. Coorey Esq., I.C.S., Joint Secretary to Government, Education and Public Health Department also attended the meeting.

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of last Meeting:

The minutes of the Special meeting of the Public Health Board held on 20th June 1947 were approved after a discussion of the following items:

(i) Training of Health Visitors: When the new scheme of 2½ years' training inclusive of midwifery course is introduced, it was suggested that wide publicity should be given through the heads of Girls' High Schools to encourage the final year class girls taking up the training.

(ii) Industrial Hygiene: The question of providing creches for the children of women-workers in municipalities and by industrial concerns was discussed. The suggestion of Dr. Subramaniam that instructions should be issued to bigger Municipalities to provide such creches wherever possible and necessary was accepted.

(iii) Conservancy Lanes: Dr. Subramaniam suggested that the opening up of conservancy lanes in congested areas in municipalities. After some discussion it was decided that the suggestion may be considered in relation with their drainage schemes.

(iv) Malaria Organisation: A report of the work done so far by the Malaria Organisation and the programme for the future which had been circulated, was discussed. The Director of Public Health informed the Board of the good results already achieved in certain areas by the adoption of extensive and continued control measures and how such areas have been rendered quite habitable without risk of malaria. He also stated that in ~~sparcely popu-~~

sparcely populated areas like Wynaad, Araku Valley etc., residual spraying of houses by D.D.T. prophylactic, use of quinine and quinine substitutes was largely responsible for these results. On the question of the financing of such schemes, the Director of Public Health explained the present position and stated, that, in order to ensure the best results, it was necessary that all anti-malarial scheme should be continued at least for a minimum period of 5 years. If schemes are to be sanctioned from year to year on the basis of the interest evinced by the local authorities and their willingness to share a portion of the expenditure, an interruption in the continuity of the control measures might possibly occur spoiling the good results already achieved. Asked whether some of the schemes in operation were likely to be stopped for lack of funds, the Joint Secretary, Education & Public Health assured the Board that no anti-malarial schemes considered by the Director of Public Health as 'essential' would be discontinued by Government on that score. Since some of the members expressed a desire to visit some of the areas where anti-malarial measures are in operation and study the results. The Board appointed a sub-committee for the purpose consisting of Dr. Subramaniam, Mr. Pais and the Director of Public Health.

(v) Post War Scheme No.94- Nutrition Research: A detailed note on the progress of work of the Nutrition Organisation was circulated to the members. The Director of Public Health also explained the original scheme as also sanctioned the working of the nutrition bureau under the modified scheme sanctioned by Government. Dr. Subramaniam expressed the view that Nutrition Research is more concerned with medical men than health Officers and enquired whether the whole work could not be transferred to the Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor. The Director of Public Health explained that basic researches are being undertaken at the Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor and field studies including diet and nutrition surveys in different localities and communities in the Province are being undertaken by the Nutrition Bureau of the Public Health Department, the programme of its work has been detailed in the note. The diet surveys are carried out by Health Inspectors while nutrition surveys by the Regional Nutrition Health Officers who are medical men with special training for the work. He also stated that the Nutrition Organisation of the Public Health Department was Organised on the lines suggested by the Government of India.

The Board was of opinion that special emphasis should be laid on educative propaganda on the nutrition amongst different groups and communities for improving their diet.

(vi) Public Health Laboratories: Dr. Subramaniam suggested that all I class municipalities should have their own public health laboratories for food analysis as also for bacteriological work. Such laboratories would not only be a source of revenue to the municipality but also be of great help to the public and the local medical practitioners. As

As an instance he quoted the Public Health Laboratory in Madura Municipality.

The Board accepted the suggestion.

II. Water-Supply and Drainage Schemes - Priority and Progress:

A note on the subject prepared by the Director of Public Health was circulated to the members. He informed the Board that since the Government had subsequently referred to the Water-Supply and Drainage Committee appointed by them, the question of priority of water supply and Drainage schemes, the sub-committee appointed by the Board to go into the question did not meet. The report of the Water Supply and Drainage Committee is now before Government and the Director of Public Health gave a summary of its recommendations in regard to priority of water-supply and drainage schemes. The Hon'ble the Minister for Public Health stated that the Special Sub-Committee for water-supply and drainage has suggested a ten-year/development plan of/ in respect of municipalities in two parts, one for the northern districts and another for the southern districts revising the order of priority according to need and leaving the ~~order~~ of rural areas to be tackled by the District Committees to be constituted, for the purpose. He also stated that the Committee's report was in print and copies would be made available soon to the members.

The Board thereupon postponed consideration of the subject to a subsequent meeting.

III. Designs for Maternity and Child Welfare Centre with 4 beds for maternity cases:

1. C.A. 452/1946 - modified.
2. C.A. 91/47 - cheaper design for smaller local authorities.

p.t.o.

The designs were circulated to the members. The Director of Public Health explained how certain defects pointed out in the previous meeting have been rectified and the comparative costs of the original and the cheaper designs.

The Board resolved that the two designs may be referred to the Cheaper designs Committee for their opinion.

IV. Provision of accommodation for isolation and treatment of patients suffering from infectious diseases:

A short note on the subject prepared by the Director of Public Health was circulated to the members.

After some discussion, the Board resolved that the Surgeon-General and the Director of Public Health should examine the question in greater detail and submit concrete proposals for the consideration of the Board at its next meeting.

V. Sanitary Convenience in rural areas: The Director of Public Health explained the note on the subject already circulated by him to the members. After some discussion, the need for a definite policy for the improvement of soil sanitation by the provision of public and private sanitary conveniences in rural areas was generally accepted and the Director of Public Health was requested to issue instructions to the Health Officers for launching a vigorous drive of latrine constructions by enforcing the provisions of the Madras Public Health Act and by conducting an intensive & educative campaign for the purpose.

The Board agreed to the proposal of the Dorector of Public Health that a senior Health Inspector should be posted in every district as Sanitary Superintendent to assist the Dt. Health Officer in this branch of work in view of the dearth of qualified Public health engineering personnel. The Health Inspectors so selected should be given a short course of specia training in sanitary engineering at Madras for period of 3/~~xxx~~ /months.

The Board also resolved to recommend to Govt. to accept a policy of giving grants to local bodies for the provision of sanitary conveniences, the amount of grant varying from one-fourth to one-half of the total expenditure according to the capacity of the local body concerned.

VI. Dr. Subramaniam brought to the notice of the Board the wide prevalence of Kala-azar in Ramnad district. The Director of Public Health promised to investigate the matter by deputing the Research Health Officer. A Research Unit of the King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Guindy would also be sent for detailed work.

VII. Maternity and Child Welfare work: Municipalities Type design for centres with Quarters for staff -C.A.No.368/47

The Director of Public Health placed before the Public Health Board two type-designs for Maternity and Child Welfare centres with maternity wards and quarters for staff for approval as desired by Govt. in their Memo No.86153/47-1-G3/PH dated 5-11-47.

The Board decided to refer these type designs also ~~xxx~~ to the Cheaper Designs Committee (P.W.D.) for their opinion in the first instance.

VIII. Dr. Subramaniam informed the Board that the present rule which prohibits the women Medical Officers in charge of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres from attending on difficult and complicated cases of labour even though they are under the care of the scheme is causing unnecessary hardships to the people and wanted the rule to be cancelled. Since the rule complained of was not

~~available~~.....

available for discussion, the Board requested the Director of Public Health to examine the rule and submit a note to the Board at its next meeting.

Sd/ ** **
Secretary, Public Health Board,
and Director of Public Health, Madras.

(True copies)

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

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p.t.o.

/Issued as Memo.No.84151-E1/47-5, P.H., dated 5-2-1948./

From the Director of Public Health, R.P.No.8750-Hyg/48, dated 24-2-1948.

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A copy of the Proceedings of the Public Health Board is at pp.67-73 c.f.

The Proceedings of the Board as recorded by its Secretary (the D.P.H.) on pp.67-73 c.f. may be approved.

** **
28-2-48
Joint Secretary P.H.

May be approved, but the omissions....will be brought to notice at the next meeting, before the minutes are confirmed. This file should be put up then. H.M. may see.

** **
1-3-1948

A.B.S.
H.M.(P.H.)

The papers may be recorded G.O.Ms.No.663 P.H., dated 3-3-1948.

Recorded.

** **
3-3-1948

Sub:

Public Health
Board - Meeting
held on 21-11-47
Papers Recorded.

(True copy)

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

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